

Serial No. 10/767,835
Atty. Doc. No. 2001P13904WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21-22 have been amended and claim 20 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-19 and 21-22 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider this continuation application and allow the pending claims.

Response to objections to the claims:

Claim 15 stands objected to due to informalities. Claim 15 has been amended as suggested by Examiner. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the claims.

Response to allowable subject matter:

Examiner has indicated that claims 2-6, 11-14, and 22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended dependent claims 2 and 22 to be in independent form as suggested by Examiner. Applicant has also amended claims 3-18 to depend from claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-18 and 22.

Response to rejections under Section 102

Independent Claim 1:

Claims 1 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Liotta (USPN 6,237,921). The Examiner apparently reads Liotta as expressly or inherently disclosing Applicant's claimed seal system.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of a seal structure comprising a metallic web. Liotta discloses a seal structure preferably formed of thin gauge sheet metal. Liotta neither discloses nor suggests a sealing system comprising a seal structure that is a metallic web as claimed by Applicant. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Independent Claim 19:

Claims 1, 8-10, and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Lampes (USPN 6,199,871). The Examiner apparently reads Lampes as expressly or inherently disclosing Applicant's claimed seal system.

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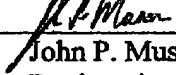
Applicant has amended claim 19 to include the limitation of a sealing structure being a sleeve. Lampes neither discloses nor suggests a sealing system comprising a seal structure include the limitation of a sealing structure being a sleeve as claimed by Applicant. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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